

Urtz selected for Presidential Executive Rank Award

by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate



Urtz

ROME, N.Y. — Raymond P. Urtz, director of the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate, has been selected as a recipient of the prestigious Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award for the second time in seven years.

Administered by the Office of Personnel Management, the award recognizes a small group of career senior executives who have demonstrated leadership of vital federal programs, fostered partnerships and community solutions to achieve results, and continuously focused on performing jobs more effectively and efficiently. Recipients are chosen through a rigorous selection process. They are nominated by their agency heads, evaluated by boards of private citizens, and approved by the President. The evaluation criteria focus on the executive's leadership in producing results.

The Meritorious Executive award is given for long-term accomplishments to no more than five percent of career SES members. It confers upon the executives an esteemed standing among their peers in the Senior Executive Service (SES), the federal government's cadre of managers who oversee some of the nation's most important medical, social, environmental, human resource and defense programs.

Urtz is among 10 Air Force executives, and 287 from throughout the federal government, to receive this year's award. Currently, there are approximately 6,000 career members of the SES.

As director of the Information Directorate, Urtz oversees an annual budget of more than \$500 million and directs the activities of approximately 900 military and civilian scientists, engineers, and administrative and support personnel. The directorate serves as the Air Force's center for the advancement and application of information systems science and technology for aerospace command and control, and its transition to air, space and ground systems.

Urtz was selected for the award based on "his extraordinary leadership, from 1990 to 1999, in advancing science and technology in command and control for the warfighter." During the decade, research operations at Rome went from Rome Air Development Center to Rome Laboratory, as the Air Force established four premier laboratories in 1990, and to the AFRL Rome Research Site with the establishment of a single Air Force Research Laboratory headquartered at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

In 1993, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission identified Griffiss AFB, the host base for Rome Laboratory, for closure and directed the Rome Laboratory to become a self-sufficient, "stand alone" facility. Under Urtz' leadership, support personnel requirements were reduced 55 percent compared to when Griffiss AFB was open, significantly lowering operating costs. Activity based costing methodologies now show the Information Directorate to be the most cost-effective of the ten AFRL technology directorates.

Urtz was recognized for creating national centers of excellence in information fusion, defensive information warfare and high performance computing. The directorate also participated in technology transfer mechanisms through the creation of the New York State Technology Enterprise Corporation and the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center, which are co-located at the Rome Research Site. Similarly, the Information Institute was established at Rome as a collaborative research environment joining

directorates scientists and engineers with researchers in information sciences and technology from leading academic institutions throughout the nation.

Urtz received a bachelor's degree in physics from Manhattan College and earned a master's degree in systems management from the University of Southern California. He entered federal service in 1961 and has held numerous positions in the Air Force's research and development program at Rome, as a technologist, program manager and senior manager. He was appointed to the SES in 1984 and received his first Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award in 1993. @